

u3 ^{sub 1} 5. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element comprises micropores.

6. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element includes a distally facing energy transmission region.

93 9. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element includes a proximally facing non-conductive region.

10. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element includes an energy transmission region and a non-conductive region and at least one of the energy transmission region and the non-conductive region define a color that visually distinguishes it from the other of the energy transmission region and the non-conductive region.

11. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element is mounted on the distal portion of the shaft.

^{sub 1} 12. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaft defines a distal end, the surgical probe further comprising:
a needle slidably mounted within the shaft and movable relative to the shaft such that a distal portion of the needle extends outwardly from the distal end of the shaft, the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element being mounted on the distal portion of the needle.

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13. (Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 12, wherein the needle comprises a plurality of needles and the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element comprises a plurality of inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation elements respectively mounted on the plurality of needles.

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15. (Amended) A surgical probe system, comprising:
a surgical probe including a relatively short, relatively stiff shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element associated with the distal portion of the shaft that allows substantially no liquid perfusion therethrough; and
a fluid source operably connected to the inflatable therapeutic element and adapted to maintain pressure within the inflatable therapeutic element at a predetermined level.

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17. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element comprises micropores.

18. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element includes a distally facing energy transmission region.

19. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the distally facing energy transmission region is annularly shaped.

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21. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a pressure sensor adapted to determine the pressure within the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

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24. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the fluid source continuously infuses fluid to and ventilates fluid from the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

Sub C
25. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element is mounted on the distal portion of the shaft.

Sub B6
26. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the shaft defines a distal end, the surgical probe further comprising:

a needle slidably mounted within the shaft and movable relative to the shaft such that a distal portion of the needle extends outwardly from the distal end of the shaft, the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element being mounted on the distal portion of the needle.

Sub C
27. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the needle comprises a plurality of needles and the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element comprises a plurality of inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation elements respectively mounted on the plurality of needles.

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33. (Amended) A surgical probe, comprising:
a hollow needle; and
a therapeutic assembly, located within the hollow needle and movable relative thereto, including a relatively short shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element associated with the distal portion of the shaft.

Please add claims 36-48 as follows:

~~Sub C1~~ 36. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 33, wherein the hollow needle defines a preset curvature.

37. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 33, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element comprises an inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

~~Sub B~~ 38. A surgical probe as claimed in claim 33, wherein the therapeutic assembly includes a hollow stylet movable relative to the relatively short shaft and the relatively short shaft is located within the stylet.

~~Sub B8~~ 39. A surgical probe system, comprising:
a surgical probe including a relatively short shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element associated with the distal portion of the shaft; and
a cooling fluid source operably connected to the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element and adapted to maintain pressure within the inflatable therapeutic element at a predetermined level.

~~Sub B~~ 40. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the cooling fluid source continuously infuses and ventilates cooling fluid to and from the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element.

~~Sub C1~~ 41. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the cooling fluid source cools the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element such that heat is only generated within tissue by virtue of the passage of current therethrough.

42. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element comprises a inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

43. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element is configured to allow substantially no liquid perfusion therethrough.

44. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the relatively short shaft is malleable.

45. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein at least a portion of the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element comprises micropores.

46. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a pressure sensor adapted to determine the pressure within the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element.

47. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 46, wherein the pressure sensor is associated with the cooling fluid source.

48. A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the cooling fluid source comprises a pump.